

Proposed changes undermine free market of ideas
I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277
I am not affiliated with any media organization.

I am a professor of media and society and a published scholar in the area of the formation of public opinion.

The decision of the FCC during the Reagan Administration to redefine freedom of the press to mean free market competition was an egregious hijacking of both the public interest and of public property for private interests.

The function of the FCC is to protect the public's capacity to gain access to a wide spectrum of ideas, opinion, and cultural artifacts. The record of media ownership since the Reagan Administration has demonstrated that deregulation has brought in its train highly concentrated media ownership, and the ownership of diverse media outlets by a single corporate entity.

The proposed rule changes will allow for greater network control over television markets, and for greater corporate control over more than one media outlet in a community. The argument that this will foster more competition and hence a greater diversity of ideas is bogus.

I am aware that the FCC is divided on this point; and I am aware that members of Congress, including Republicans, will introduce legislation to block the intent of these proposals.

I can think of no other reason for proceeding with a vote on June than that Commissioner Powell wishes to be not a public servant, but a servant to private interests.

Sincerely
Linda R. Robertson
343 Pennsylvania Avenue
Trumansburg, New York
14886

I am a registered voter. My Representative to Congress is Amo Houghton.

Thank you,

Linda Robertson